

REMARKS

Claims 20-22, 26-28, 30 and 32 are under consideration.

Claims 30 and 32 have been canceled.

Claims 20-22 and 26-28, therefore, remain pending and under consideration.

No fees are considered due at this time, however, if a deficiency occurs, please charge our deposit account number 04-1420 to maintain pendency.

Rejection of Claims 30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 30 and 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Olson et al. in view of Takano et al.

Claims 30 and 32 have been canceled, thereby obviating the basis for this rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 20-22, 26-28, 30 and 32 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,026.

Claims 30 and 32 have been canceled, thereby obviating part of the basis for the rejection.

Upon Notice of Allowance of claims 20-22 and 26-28, Applicant is willing to provide a terminal disclaimer with regard to U.S. Patent 6,353,026, thereby obviating the basis for this rejection.

Claims 20-22, 26-28, 30 and 32 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of

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obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 20-28, 30 and 32 of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/004,155.

Claims 30 and 32 have been canceled, thereby obviating part of the basis for the rejection.

Upon Notice of Allowance of claims 20-22 and 26-28, Applicant is willing to provide a terminal disclaimer with regard to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/004,155, thereby obviating the basis for this rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims distinguish over all references cited by the Examiner and respectfully requests that all rejections be withdrawn. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant in the event that such communication is deemed to expedite prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

January 22, 2004

By:

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